

The Osiris effect

The Urth list — 5 messages, 4 voices, 18 Nov 2011

<https://urth.darkrealm.vip/thread/urth/6116>

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Lee Berman — 18 Nov 2011, 21:01

Dan'l Dannehy-Oakes: Note also that at times Severian uses Terminus Est as a staff.
I think Wolfe just likes staves.

Yes, I meant to mention that but forgot. I don't think it is so simple though. Who is Severian's grandfather? We don't have to consider his connections to Father Inire but we can't ignore that he also carries a staff.

Moreover, the Typhon-Osiris myth was likely imported to Greece, though in that version, Typhon defeats Zeus by ripping out his sinews. Hermes manages to get them back and restore Zeus.

David Stockhoff: Sinews? What? Did you say SINEWS? Which myth is that?

Heh, damn straight! But it isn't some obscure, backwater myth. It is an essential part of the Typhon myth. Any Typhon+Zeus search will bring up multiple sinew-mentioning sites. The Father (Inire)-Son-Father theme stretches across the Sun Series in my opinion (and for more than mythological/religious reasons, as noted below).

Nick Lee: There is an obvious connection here between Wolfe's own life and the protagonists of the Urth cycle.

I think that continues through the whole Sun Series, but especially in Short Sun. If you are looking, it isn't so hard to spot Gene, his wife, at least some of their children and some of the family problems they have experienced.

Some other connections: Severian's blade contains mercury, named for Dionysus' foster father; Silk carries an azoth (means "mercury").

Argh! it is the alchemical name! I didn't know that, thanks. And let us not forget that the mercury-bearing Terminus Est was created by "Jovinian", named for Mercury's father. (Such a Roman name implies the sword was fashioned by a non-human like Inire, Cumaeon, Barbatus, etc.) How long will Wolfe keep surprising me?

So, Terminus Est makes an appearance in Long Sun. Cool. I already think a dark version of it appears in Short Sun, in the sewer scene. Horn even carries a light along with his sword as does Severian (and Frodo).

David Stockhoff — 18 Nov 2011, 21:23 · in reply to Lee Berman

On 11/18/2011 4:01 PM, Lee Berman wrote:

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I agree, although it's also a saint's name so Wolfe is teasing us again.

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes — 18 Nov 2011, 21:24 · in reply to Lee Berman

Lee Berman wrote:

Dan'l Dannehy-Oakes: Note also that at times Severian uses Terminus Est as a staff.
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The old boatman carries a staff? I didn't remember that.

Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

David Stockhoff — 18 Nov 2011, 21:26 · in reply to Dan'l Danehy-Oakes

On 11/18/2011 4:24 PM, Dan'l Danehy-Oakes wrote:

Lee Berman wrote:

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He pokes the water with it looking for his Cas.

Sergei SOLOVIEV — 18 Nov 2011, 22:25 · in reply to David Stockhoff

It is a pole, not a staff -

Sergei Soloviev

David Stockhoff wrote:

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Lee Berman wrote:

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